

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, US, TW, CH

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED "EXPERT" CLAIMS US RECOGNITION OF THE PRC

MAY LEAD TO WAR IN TAIWAN STRAIT

1. THE DECEMBER 20 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EXPRESS NEWS AND CHINA POST CARRIED A CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY ARTICLE BY TANG PAN-PAN (0781/4162/4162, P.P. TANG) REPORTING THE VIEWS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED "INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS EXPERT" ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF WAR BETWEEN THE ROC AND THE PRC IF THE US RECOGNIZES THE PRC. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE ARTICLE.

2. THE EXPERT SAID THAT IF THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IS COMPLETED, "IT WOULD VERY LIKELY LEAD TO A WAR IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT...EVEN IF THE US COULD SUCCEED IN TALKING THE PEIPING LEADERS INTO SIGNING SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT PROMISING NOT TO RESORT TO FORCE TO SETTLE THE SO-CALLED TAIWAN PROBLEM." THE US, AFTER RECOGNIZING THE PRC, "WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN A 'HANDS OFF' POLICY," BUT THIS WILL BE "IMPOSSIBLE."

3. "WASHINGTON SET OUT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE

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PEIPING REGIME FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TURNING THE CHINESE

COMMUNISTS IN X TO A BALANCING FORCE TO CHECK THE SOVIET UNION'S EXPANSION." BUT PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER "COMMITTED THE SERIOUS MISTAKE OF SIGNING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE....NOW IF WASHINGTON SHOULD DECIDE TO RECOGNIZE PEIPING...HOW CAN THE US CHALLENGE PEIPING'S CLAIM THAT THE SO-CALLED TAIWAN PROBLEM IS A DOMESTIC PROBLEM OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND THAT NO FOREIGN POWER, INCLUDING THE US, HAS ANY RIGHT TO INTERVENE? BESIDES, EVEN IF WASHINGTON IS WILLING TO MAKE THAT KIND OF CONCESSION, HOW CAN IT MAKE IT "ON BEHALF OF THE ROC, WHICH HAS EVERY RIGHT TO REJECT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT?"

4. WHEN THINGS TURN OUT THIS WAY, "NOBODY IS IN A POSITION TO RESTRAIN EITHER THE ROC OR THE PEIPING REGIME TO SETTLE THEIR RIVALRY BY THEIR OWN WAY. AS TAIPEI WILL NEVER ENTER INTO ANY KIND OF TALKS WITH PEIPING, AND THE LATTER HAS ALWAYS VOWED TO 'LIBERATE' TAIWAN, FIGHTING BETWEEN THEM WOULD BECOME 'INEVITABLE' WITHOUT A BALANCING FORCE, WHICH HAS BEEN THERE SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE 1954 SINO-AMERICAN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY....SO RIGHT NOW THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER WASHINGTON SHOULD RECOGNIZE PEIPING OR NOT, BUT WHETHER IT REALLY WANTS PEACE OR WAR."

5. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE HAS NOT APPEARED IN THE CHINESE-LANGUAGE PRESS AND IS OBVIOUSLY ADDRESSED TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES, ESPECIALLY THE US. HOWEVER, IT DOES REFLECT THE TYPE OF THINKING FOUND HERE AMONG CERTAIN CIRCLES BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. SINCE THE ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY ONE OF CNA'S MOST PROLIFIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMMENTATORS, THE IDEAS IT EXPRESSED MAY WELL BE THEMES THAT WILL BE EMPHASIZED IN THE FUTURE IN PROPAGANDA AIMED AT THE U.S. POPPLE

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